

and neglect do much more mischief. This branch of practice is greatly in the hands of ignorant women and inexperienced men, whose services are valued because they are cheap. Human life in general being set at a low valuation in California, such results might naturally be anticipated. Besides, there is a want of the proper maternal instinct, or, at least, a low degree of it, in a very large number of women. They are averse to the care and burden of offspring, and their indifference or dislike has its natural results, not only in the large proportion of stillborn children, but in the great mortality after birth and during infancy.

"Mammary tumours and abscesses are common, and, as a consequence, many infants are deprived of the natural and most healthy fountain of nutriment. This adds slightly to the infantile mortality."

"Apart from the direct influence of the uterine system on the brain and nerves, which operates with undue force, the nervous organization is subjected to greater excitement from other causes in this country than in older settlements. From the exalted sensibility thus established, it might be inferred that puerperal convulsions are not uncommon. Such appears to be the fact. I may add, that chloroform and ether have relieved a number of unpromising cases of this description. In one instance in my charge about two years ago, I kept the patient for several hours under the moderate influence of ether. The remedy was resorted to after the failure of other potent remedies, and to it I attribute the saving of a valuable life. Conjoined with venesection, the anæsthetic treatment is generally safe and efficacious, if not pushed too far.

"Fever is a common attendant on the puerperal state. In the large proportion of cases it assumes an intermittent form, or a remittent bordering on an intermittent, and yields readily to quinia. Peritonitis, if it exists at all, is not often a prominent symptom in these cases."

A case of successful ligature of the common carotid is related by Dr. R. Beverly Cole, of San Francisco. The ligature was applied for the arrest of hemorrhage, in an extensive incised wound of the posterior and left side of the neck, opening the pharynx and larynx, and in its course severing the internal carotid or one of its larger branches. In five weeks subsequent to the operation, the patient was attending to business as usual. D. F. C.

ART. XVIII.—*Reports of American Institutions for the Insane.*

1. *Of the Friends' Asylum, Philadelphia, for the fiscal years 1855-6 and 1856-7.*
2. *Of the U. S. Government Hospital, for the fiscal year 1855-6.*
3. *Of the Ohio Central State Asylum, for 1856.*
4. *Of the Ohio Northern State Asylum, for 1856.*
5. *Of the Ohio Southern State Asylum, for 1856.*

1. "THE house," says Dr. Worthington, of the Friends' Asylum, Philadelphia, in his report for the fiscal year 1855-6, "has been as full, throughout the year, as was consistent with the comfort and welfare of its inmates; and, perhaps, during no similar period have the designs of the contributors been more fully carried out."

	Men.	Women.	Total.
Patients at the commencement of the year			59
Admitted in course of the year	24	11	35
Whole number			94
Discharged, including deaths			28
Remaining, March 1, 1856			66
Of the patients discharged, there were cured			14
Died			4

The following truly remarkable statement is made respecting the patients deceased: "One man and three women have died during the year. The first was in his eightieth year, and died from the effects of old age; one of the women was seventy-nine years of age, and died of paralysis; the second was seventy-seven years old, and died of exhaustion from long-continued excitement; the third was in her ninetieth year, was deaf, dumb, and idiotic, and died of an attack of diarrhoea."

It is to be hoped that the time is not far distant at which the superintendents of all the hospitals for the insane may be enabled, like Dr. Worthington, to write as follows:—

"It is gratifying to observe the improvement that has taken place within the last few years, both in regard to placing the insane under medical treatment at an early period of the disease, and also in allowing them to remain a sufficient length of time to afford them a fair opportunity to derive all the benefit the institution is capable of conferring. It is but seldom we have to lament the premature removal of a patient, except when the pecuniary circumstances of the individual forbid his longer continuance."

The results of this year "correspond with the experience of previous years, in showing that about one half of those who recover are discharged within three months from the time of admission; that the term of six months nearly represents the average duration of successful treatment, and that a considerable number recover after having been under treatment for as long a time as twelve months. It may be mentioned as an inducement for persevering in the use of remedies, that the recoveries which take place gradually, and occupy the longest time, are often the most satisfactory and permanent."

In regard to mechanical restraint, it is remarked that "'the sleeves,' (camisole?) made of soft material, is the only form in which it is used among our patients, and, during the last six months, no case has occurred in which it was deemed necessary, or was resorted to."

In an asylum like that the report from which is before us, where all the recipients of its benefits are "pay patients," it is much more difficult than in State, County, or City institutions, extensively to introduce a system of manual labour, or employment. Especially is this true in respect to the occupants of the department for females. From the subjoined extract we infer that this difficulty has been, measurably at least, overcome at the Friends' Asylum.

"A few of the female patients engage in assisting the attendants in their household duties in the wings; but the greater number occupy themselves in knitting, and the various kinds of needlework. The most of the clothing of the female patients has been made up in the institution, and a large number of garments for the poor, the materials for which were furnished by a friend in the city, have also been made. The advantages of occupation have been particularly observable during the past year among the excited class of female patients, some of whom, by persevering exertions on the part of the matron and attendants, have been induced to engage in it."

It is universally acknowledged that of all the elements constituting what is called the "moral treatment" of the insane, manual employment which contributes to some useful or beneficent object or end, is the most beneficial. Hence its extensive application is of paramount importance. We have found, by experience, that much may be effected towards the object of inducing all the patients of adequate physical ability to engage in it, by giving currency to, and constantly sustaining, in the wards, the idea that such employment is expected from every one; that it is a part of the established routine; and that he who refuses thus to occupy a portion of his time, disregards one of the wholesome regulations of the establishment.

Among the additions to the means of entertainment of the patients at this asylum, are two of Lloyd's Stereoscopic Cosmoramas. Within a few months we have seen this convenient apparatus for the exhibition of photographic pictures at several of the hospitals for the insane.

The report for 1856-7, like that of the preceding fiscal year, is ornamented with two fine pictures; one, a front view of the asylum, the other a view of the garden and library.

	Men.	Women.	Total.
Patients in the asylum, March 1, 1856			66
Admitted in course of the year	20	16	36
Whole number			102
Discharged, including deaths			44
Remaining March 1, 1857			58
Of the patients discharged, there were cured			21
Died			9

We hope that our friend, Dr. Worthington, will introduce into his reports, hereafter, some method by which the whole numbers, of each sex, who have been in the asylum in the course of the year, can be ascertained. Many improvements have been made in the organization, and the internal economy of the institution during his administration: can he not now find time to revise and reform his antiquated form of published statistics?

We quote, nearly entire, the doctor's remarks upon the "forms of insanity."

"In the nomenclature of the disease, I have preferred retaining the generic names of Mania, Monomania, Melancholia, and Dementia, rather than adopting a more minute subdivision which, however it may appear more scientific than the older method, scarcely answers as well all the purposes of classification. If these terms do not express accurately the nature of the disease, they are, as it were, consecrated by long established usage, and have at least the merit of being intelligible. It is difficult sometimes, at first, to decide under which of the above heads a given case shall be classed, from the fact of the changing phases of the disease; a case occasionally in its progress exhibiting the character of two or more of the above forms. Thus a patient affected with monomania, under some real or imaginary provocation, will break out into the excitement and violent acts of mania; the depression of melancholia, though essentially distinct, in some cases bears a close resemblance to the inertia of dementia; some of the demented are subject to paroxysms of maniacal excitement; and even the deep dejection of melancholia alternates, in some instances, with the elevation of self-pleasing monomania. These changes show that the above-named do not indicate so many distinct diseases, but rather varying forms of one and the same disorder. Yet, in most of these cases, there are predominant features which assign the patient to one of the above forms in preference to the rest.

"One reason for the above classification of insanity, is the avoidance of the term 'moral insanity,' which has been so greatly misunderstood and perverted that it would, perhaps, have been better had it never been invented. As generally understood, this term conveys the idea of a condition in which patients, without any impairment of their mental integrity, are so much under the control of some evil propensity as to be utterly powerless to resist it, and consequently irresponsible for any act committed under its influence. There may be cases of insanity in which a disposition to immoral conduct is conspicuous, and in which mental disorder may not be very apparent; yet to say that the indulgence of this disposition is of itself any evidence of the disease called insanity, shows very confused ideas on the subject. The habitual indulgence of bad passions may lead to insanity, but when this condition is reached, it is manifested by other signs of mental impairment than mere inability to resist them. Perverted sentiments and excited passions, though not alone *constituting* insanity, do often, however, enter largely into its manifestation. The proneness of maniacs to irritation and anger, and their disposition to fancy themselves the objects of actual or intended wrong, are among the forms under which self-love manifests its predominance. The delusions of the monomaniac often show the effects of inordinate self-esteem, and anxiety for promotion and honour among men."

We cannot agree with Dr. Worthington in the desire to avoid the term "moral insanity." Unquestionably, there are cases in which perversion of the sentiments is as prominent and distinguishing a characteristic of the disease, as are high excitement, vociferation, violent gesticulation, and turbulence, in acute mania. We would, therefore, not only not avoid the term in question, but use

it as frequently as convenience may require, if but for the purpose of establishing in the minds of men the fact of the existence of such a disease. This fact has been doubted, disputed, denied, ridiculed; not among the laity alone, but by members of the several professions, and even where it should be doubted least, upon the judicial bench. Let, then, those persons whose professional position best enables, and most requires them to do it, continue their expositions of the disease until it shall be generally recognized.

In the remarks upon "Occupation" in the report before us, it is stated that "experience teaches that three or four hours each day is as much as can generally be required," advantageously, of the patients.

"There are but few cases in which there is not discernible some derangement of one or more of the organs or functions of the body, which must be met by appropriate medical treatment. In most cases, tonic medicines and those calculated to allay nervous irritation, are requisite; while those of an opposite character, as are all depressing remedies, must be carefully avoided. The cases in which bloodletting would be beneficial, are extremely rare; while in a large majority it would be decidedly injurious.

"One of the large rooms on the first floor of the centre building has been fitted up with seats and cases, and other necessary fixtures of a lecture-room, for the use of the patients. The philosophical apparatus has been removed to this room, thus affording increased facilities for demonstrating some of the familiar principles of natural science."

2. The annual report from the Government Hospital for the Insane, near Washington D. C., is signed by Dr. Benjamin S. Bohrer, President of the Board of Visitors, and Dr. C. H. Nichols, the Superintendent.

	Men.	Women.	Total.
Patients in the Hospital July 1, 1855	26	34	60
Admitted in course of the year	36	11	47
Whole number	62	45	107
Discharged, including deaths,	8	6	14
Remaining July 1, 1856	54	39	93
Of those discharged, there were cured	3	2	5
Died	4	4	8

We quote the following extract from the report, because it relates to a subject heretofore unmentioned, so far as we recollect, in any of the American reports.

"Only *five*, or about 8 per cent. of the sixty-three persons admitted before the commencement of the Hospital year to which this report relates, had been insane for a less period than one year at the time of admission; while of the forty-seven admitted this year, *nineteen*, or about 40 per cent. had, as well as could be ascertained, been insane less than one year, and were more or less hopeful in respect to recovery.

"This very satisfactory improvement in the character of the patients received the past year, is likely to continue for two or three years to come, when the proportion of recent cases to the whole number admitted will reach its maximum of about 64 per cent., as is made to appear in a late report of the celebrated Friends' Retreat, near York, England, which now sums up a very carefully recorded experience of sixty years.

"It might at first appear that when a particular institution has been in operation long enough to receive all the protracted cases which had accumulated in the absence of convenient provisions for their accommodation, the subsequent admission from the vicinage would be mostly cases of short duration; but a little reflection will render it apparent that the experience of that ancient establishment, just cited, is perfectly consistent with the probabilities everywhere.

"The thousand refined dissipations of modern civilization give rise to many cases and forms of mental derangement whose existence is at first debatable, and as it has often happened in the past, so it will probably continue often to

happen in the future, that the timidity, or affection, or pride, or cupidity, or inability of friends, will defer a resort to hospital treatment till the disease becomes as confirmed as it has long been apparent and troublesome."

Some of the peculiarities of the Government Hospital, and some of the advantages springing therefrom, are thus alluded to:—

"That this establishment will afford a home for life for all its incurables; that they are separated from their friends, and are independent of them, and dependent upon the institution; that the soldier and the sailor are habituated to obedience and order; are all circumstances which, taken together, are calculated to give us a more complete and easy control of the time and habits of our patients than has hitherto been practicable in any American Hospital for the Insane. It is our aim as a permanent policy, to turn these favorable circumstances to account in effecting the gradual engagement of all our incurables who have been accustomed to any form of manual labor, in some wholesome and useful employment.

"Our efforts thus far have been encouraging beyond our most sanguine expectations. No accident has happened, though several patients have been intrusted with tools who had previously been deemed dangerous. Refreshing and sound sleep has taken the place of the most vicious indulgences; pallor and listlessness have given way to ruddiness and strength; and, above all, increased interest in life and its objects and affairs, has added light to the eye and animation to the step. Indeed, we have often been astonished to observe how the industry and good conduct of our patients have kept even pace with the encouragement and confidence they have received at our hands."

3. The Eighteenth Annual Report of the Trustees and Officers of the Central Ohio Lunatic Asylum, at Columbus, is a pamphlet of seventy-six large duodecimo pages; and yet it furnishes but little matter which comes within the usual scope of our notices. The superintendent, Dr. R. Hills (superintendents succeed each other at this institution almost as frequently as the annual reports), occupies a large part of his report by an exposition of the "wants" of the Asylum. We proceed to make some extracts.

"But little can be said of our farming. The principal portion of our farm is but slightly removed from a state of nature, it being in the condition of what is usually termed a woods pasture.

"An abundance of water in such an institution is indispensable. Our arrangements therefor are very imperfect, troublesome, and expensive. Much of the time during the past summer, it has been necessary to economize its use carefully, and a portion of the time it has been necessary to carry it into all parts of the house by hand.

"The barn 'is a wooden structure,' at this time in a state of complete dilapidation, and it is with regret that we are compelled to use it for even another winter.

"Workshops for a variety of mechanical operations are found in most other institutions, got up for the benefit of patients. Ours has none! That at Utica has a printing office. * * * There are also cabinet shops, turning lathes, tailor and shoemaking shops, &c. Other institutions are similarly provided; but what have we? Absolutely nothing! Not even a shoe-bench.

"As many as ten years since there were over six hundred volumes in the library, and it was then the practice to make yearly appropriations to increase the number. Now, the entire miscellaneous library comprises less than 275 volumes. Those in any manner touching the subject of insanity, number 31 volumes. Those on medical and scientific subjects, 37 volumes. They are old, and most of them have little value.

"There is not a single sofa in the patients' halls; there are three lounges of domestic manufacture, hard and uncomfortable, and six split-bottomed rocking chairs, with one wooden one in the eastern hall, for the comfort and convenience of one hundred and twenty-five females! There is scarcely a log-cabin in Ohio that is not better provided in these respects."

These extracts are sufficient to convince the reader of the decadence of the institution at Columbus, an institution which, during the first twelve years of

its existence, sustained its position amongst the best of the kind in the United States. This decadence is acknowledged by Dr. Hills, in the remark, "had the asylum been originally intended for or purposely permitted to degenerate into a mere receptacle for the incurable insane, where the simple physical wants and ordinary necessities of life were to be provided for with even a generous hand, then could I say that those for whose benefit it was created are as well provided for as it is possible for them to be under any circumstances, or in any institution of the country. But it is otherwise. It has a much higher aim.

"The question," he continues, "as to what, where, and when have been the influences that have lost to us our former pre-eminence, it is not proper for me, nor am I disposed, to discuss. I will only say, that without an intelligent, active, and faithful superintendence; a wise, liberal, and harmonious directory; a generous and open-handed legislation; and, with all, and over all, a Divine sanction, we cannot expect success."

Unhappily this institution has been so wholly controlled by partisan politics that, in the course of seven or eight years, it has had a succession of no less than five superintendents, most of them elected in conformity with the modern political dogma, "to the victors belong the spoils." Dr. Hills has given a long detail of the "wants" of the Asylum, and says, "to specify *all* our wants would be too tedious." Among those which are not specified are the first, the greatest, the most important. These are *separation from partisan politics*, and a *comparatively permanent superintendence*. Supply these two primary and radical necessities, and the number of other "wants" would very rapidly decrease.

	Men.	Women.	Total.
Patients in the Asylum, Nov. 15, 1855	109	107	216
Admitted to Nov. 1st, 1856	68	86	154
Whole number	177	193	370
Discharged, including deaths	75	72	147
Remaining, Nov. 1st, 1856	102	121	223
Of those discharged, there were cured	30	34	64
Died	9	9	18

Causes of Death.—Phthisis pulmonalis, 3; apoplexy, 3; typhomania, 3; epilepsy, 3; hemorrhage from bowels, 2; dysentery, 1; organic disease of brain, 1; anasarca, 1; anæmia, 1.

Throughout the year the inmates enjoyed "an unusual exemption from epidemics, and even the ordinary diseases of the climate and season."

All statistics prior to the last fiscal year, are omitted from this report.

4. On the 1st of December, 1854, Dr. L. Firestone commenced his duties as superintendent of the Northern Ohio Lunatic Asylum, at Newburg. On the 5th of March, 1855, the first patient was received. On the 5th of August, 1856, Dr. Firestone was subjected to the political guillotine, and his place filled by Dr. R. C. Hopkins.

On the 14th of August, Dr. Jacob Laisey was appointed assistant physician, and Mr. E. H. Doolittle steward.

Judging of the future by the past, the official existence of Dr. Hopkins will be coextensive with the predominance of the party which has borne him into office.

From the 5th of March, 1855, to the 31st of October, 1856—

	Men.	Women.	Total.
The number of patients admitted was	126	160	286
Discharged, including deaths	60	87	147
Remaining Nov. 10, 1856	66	73	139 ¹
Of those discharged, there were cured	47	57	104
Died	4	11	15

¹ The statistics in the Report, instead of being given in one place, by the superintendent, are partly included in the report of that officer, and partly in that of the trustees. Dr. Hopkins states the number remaining on the 1st of Nov. to be 141.

"During the first two weeks of our occupancy of the house," remarks Dr. Hopkins, "a few cases of dysentery, of a mild form, occurred. Fortunately no deaths occurred from this cause."

"The year just past has shown a steady increase in the number of those seeking relief in the asylum, so that at its close, we find it crowded to the fullest possible capacity. * * * The number of applicants on file (25) which we have been unable to accommodate, gives us no hope of a less average than for the past three months.

From the state of things in Ohio, during the past few years, we infer that the new hospitals were erected upon contracts, the giving of which was in the hands of political partisans. Hence we are not surprised at the subjoined language of the report:—

"The repairs upon the buildings and out-buildings have been expensive, and still more expensive ones will be required in the year to come, or parts of the buildings must go to speedy decay. This may appear almost incredible of structures so nearly new. Yet the fact is plainly visible to the most casual visitor. Among those which have been made, or are now in progress, the rebuilding of the gas-well is most prominent. The gas-house can hardly be kept from falling until spring, and it will be necessary to rebuild nearly or quite the whole structure then, if not before."

"The removal of the barn and other out-buildings to a uniform and more convenient locality, promises to add much to the comfort of our stock, and those having them in charge."

"I am satisfied that prudence and economy would dictate the substitution for the present rickety and badly-gearred pump, a larger and more simple machine."

"A change of the kitchen and bake-room, from their present smoky, out-of-the-way location, directly over the boilers, to a more central and convenient one, is desirable—I might say absolutely indispensable. The fixtures of these apartments will need to be nearly all replaced, somewhere in the approaching spring."

All this is exceedingly encouraging information in regard to an establishment which had been in operation but one year and eight months, and which was constructed at a time when the knowledge of the best and most convenient architectural arrangement of buildings and apartments for the insane had arrived at a high degree of perfection.

5. Dr. Joshua Clements was the superintendent of the Southern Ohio Lunatic Asylum, at Dayton, from the time of its opening, September 1st, 1855, until the 1st of May, 1856, the somewhat protracted period—protracted for Ohio—of eight months. The star of his political opponents having now gained the ascendant, he was "for such a worthy cause" removed, and his place supplied by Dr. J. J. McIlhenny.

	Men.	Women.	Total.
Patients in the Asylum, Nov. 1, 1855	23	23	46 ¹
Admitted in course of the year	87	88	175
Whole number	110	111	221
Discharged, including deaths	40	44	84
Remaining, Nov. 1st, 1856	69	64	133 ²

Causes of Death.—"Apoplexy, 1; exhaustion, 2; inanition, 1; hemorrhage of bowels, 1; chronic dysentery, 1; *apnoea*, 1; chronic gastritis, 1; disease of heart, 1; tabes mesenterica, 1.

The Italics of "*apnoea*" are ours. Some light is probably thrown upon this case by the following statements, on a subsequent page of the report: "One of our number committed suicide, by hanging himself to the window in his room,

¹ According to the report of the preceding year, 48.

² This line is given as in the report, although from the figures above it, it should be 70—67—137.

with a strip torn from a sheet on his bed. He was early discovered, but too late for resuscitation."

"In the months of May and June, erysipelas seized upon a number of our patients, in quite a severe form, and at one time, threatened to seriously invade the whole house; but, by strict attention to cleanliness and regimen, it ceased its violence, assumed a sporadic character throughout July and August, and finally disappeared from the house, without producing any deaths, or any very deleterious results."

Our business with the reports of the public institutions for the insane, relates more to the matter which those reports contain, than to the manner in which that matter is conveyed. Yet, when we meet with language like that of the following extracts, we cannot help wishing that a little more care had been taken.

"There have been three elopements the past year."

"The relation of mind and body are so intimately and intricately blended that neither can suffer injury without the other. The sympathetic relation existing between the complex machinery of our systems is so mysterious in its workings, that, to fully understand and comprehend the influences which, in this way, may be exerted upon the mind, involves facts which have been, perhaps, too little studied, even by medical men.

"The idea that it was rather disgraceful to send a near and dear relative to an insane asylum has now, happily, but few advocates. But, on the contrary, at the very first onset of dethroned reason, many persons now are not only willing, but solicitously anxious to have them cared for in a place of this kind.

"Such a state of public sentiment needs not only encouragement, but a care to instil it into the minds of the community."

Dayton, like Newburg, furnishes some of the beauties of buildings of which politics is the foster-mother.

"It is impossible," say the trustees, "to wash the floors without endangering the plastering below. They were made, as the large cracks indicate, of unseasoned or wet material."

"The cooking ranges were worthless. Their place has been supplied by a cooking stove."

"Last winter it was found impossible to warm comfortably the four wards then in use, though one hundred bushels of coal and five cords of wood were daily consumed. We have been obliged to have the boilers reset, and new castings provided for their fronts. * * * Attempts have been made to remedy other important defects in the heating apparatus."

"The water-closets are defective; health and comfort require their remodelling.

"The pumps and pipes now in use for elevating the water to the tanks in the attic, are too small to furnish the necessary supply. New ones have been ordered."

"The roof on many parts of the building leaked badly. After several ineffectual attempts to remedy it without, we deemed it necessary to put an entire covering of tin on the dome, and have contracted for the work."

"Owing to the leaking of the roof and floors, much of the plastering has fallen, and must be replaced."

"There is a great defect in the system of ventilation for the whole house, and particularly the wards. A small sum expended for the purpose might effect a great improvement, though it is now impossible to render it as perfect as it might, and ought to have been made in the construction of the building."

"From the basement to the cupola the locks were of a bad quality. The most worthless have been removed, and better ones substituted."

We have now completed the task—a most disagreeable one, it is true—of presenting to our readers some of the defects of the three State Institutions of Ohio, as they are represented by their trustees and executive officers. Those institutions stand as the monuments of a most deleterious policy—a policy which blasts every philanthropic establishment into the management of which

it is introduced—a policy which we shall continue to denounce, wherever and whenever, and by what political party soever it may be adopted. We saw the New York City Lunatic Asylum when it was under the political *régime*, and we have seen it years after its emancipation therefrom. It presented, at the two different times, a most remarkable contrast. The popular ideas of the two opposite states in the future world are scarcely more dissimilar. The New York Institution is regenerated; and the institutions of Ohio are in the path which, if long pursued, will reduce them to its former condition. Such a result is inevitable.

The superintendents of the institutions in Ohio will observe that we are writing against a principle of action which, although it may have brought them into office, does not necessarily in the least affect their qualifications for those offices.¹ They may be, for aught we know, better adapted to the peculiar positions which they occupy than any other persons in Ohio. Personally, we have no acquaintance with either of them, yet we hope that, if they be properly qualified for their places, they may retain those places until the institutions under their care shall rank among the best in the country. Dr. Hopkins has had considerable experience in the business as Assistant Physician at the Central Ohio Asylum; and the elaborate report of Dr. Hills very clearly demonstrates that he understands the necessities of an establishment for the insane.

The buildings of the two new hospitals in Ohio are not the only ones of the kind, in this country, which were shabbily constructed. All such edifices, if built by contract, are very likely to be defective in the extreme. The building of the Pennsylvania State Hospital for the Insane, although but six or seven years of age, is already feeble, decrepid, rickety, superannuated, and will soon be unable to sustain its own weight without additional assistance. A structure of the kind ought to be intended for the wear and tear of centuries.

Unseasoned lumber has been used in many of the recently erected hospitals. Hence, in many places where joints should be perfectly tight, there is sufficient space to admit the finger. There are base-boards with an opening of from one-half to three-quarters of an inch between them and the floor, and doors with the panels shrunk so far out of the frame that you may thrust your hand between them. Much has been said and much has been written upon the subject of ventilation. This is well; and every properly constructed hospital should be supplied with some means for changing the air, which formerly was not taken into consideration by the architects. But if the buildings are to be like some to which we have alluded, all this extra labour and expense is unnecessary. The greatest difficulty will be to prevent the air from being changed too rapidly.

P. E.

¹ Since the above was written, we have been informed that in the appointment of Dr. Hopkins to the superintendency of the Asylum at Newburg, political party considerations were waived. He obtained his office simply for the reason that he was qualified for the performance of its duties. How strangely soever it may appear to the citizens of Ohio, that a man should succeed, by so novel a process, in getting into a place of responsibility and profit, we trust that the result will be such as to induce those who have the distribution of offices in the benevolent institutions, to persevere in their commenced course of well-doing.